

**Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)  
George H. Thomas Post No. 17 collection  
L201**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 09, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Title</b>	Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) George H. Thomas Post No. 17 collection
<b>Date</b>	1880-1933
<b>Extent</b>	0.6 Cubic feet 2 manuscript boxes, 10 volumes
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) George H. Thomas Post No. 17 collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## **Administrative History**

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The G.A.R., The Grand Army of the Republic, was the largest and most influential organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. It was founded at Decatur, Illinois, in April 1866 by Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, formerly a surgeon of the 14th Illinois Infantry. Through most of their history, local posts were primarily fraternal organizations whose ritual and procedures had a military flavor. From the start, the Grand Army was an oath-bound society, dedicated to the principles of “fraternity, charity, and loyalty.” The George H. Thomas Post was the Indianapolis chapter of the G.A.R.

During the first couple of years, many local posts, notably in Indiana, were little more than radical Republican campaign clubs; but, in 1869, the national encampment (convention) adopted a regulation (never significantly altered) that forbade the use of the organization for partisan purposes. In 1949, six of the sixteen surviving veterans of the organization met in Indianapolis for the 83rd and last national encampment.

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## **Scope and Contents**

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The collection contains mostly documents from the George H. Thomas Post No. 17 in Indianapolis. These include meeting minutes, ledger, muster, account, dues, receipts, ritual and ceremonial books. Also included are correspondence, pamphlets, an organizational plate, a souvenir of Decoration Day, and other organizational paperwork. Also included in the collection are photocopies of the meetings minutes from the Johnson Post No. 368 in Montpelier (1884-1894).

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## **Arrangement**

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This collection is arranged by subject.

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## **Administrative Information**

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## **Publication Information**

Rare Books and Manuscripts

## **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

## **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

## **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed in 1998 by Philip N. Williams and during January 2013 by Sarah Pfundstein. EAD finding aid created 2015/07/09 by Bethany Fiechter.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- George H. Thomas Post No. 17, Grand Army of the Republic (U.S.).
- Grand Army of the Republic (U.S.).
- Johnson Post No. 368, Grand Army of the Republic (U.S.).

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Indianapolis (Ind.)

- Montpelier (Ind.)

### **Subject(s)**

- Ledger
- Minutes (Records)
- Receipts

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Post #368 Montpelier minutes, 1884-1888	1	1
Post #368 Montpelier minutes, 1888 August-1890/08/02	1	2
Post #368 Montpelier minutes, 1890/08/16-1893 May	1	3
Post #368 Montpelier minutes, 1893/05/27-1894 June	1	4
Muster book, 1880-1888	1	5
Register book, 1926-1932	1	6
Ritual books, undated	1	7
Ledger books, undated	1	8
Ceremonial books, undated	1	9
Miscellaneous papers, 1928-1933	2	1
Receipt books, 1928, 1931-1933	2	2
Organizational plate, undated	2	3

Miscellaneous papers, undated	2	4
		<b>Volume</b>
Account book, 1900-1909		V127-1
Ledger, 1893		V127-2
Receipt and payment book, 1895-1899		V127-3
Ledger book, undated		V127-4
Meeting minutes, 1899-1908		V127-5
Minutes, undated		V127-6
Minutes, 1880 April-1886		V127-7
Meeting minutes, 1887-1893		V127-8
Ledger, 1921-1932		V127-9
Dues book, 1900-1904		V127-10